

Pacific American grassroots community sending them home with pearls of wisdom and a charge to do good for others and to serve this nation.

This is how the Asian Pacific American community will forever remember the incredibly vibrant Congresswoman from Hawaii—Patsy T. Mink.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER GLEN  
KIRKLAND

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 19, 2002*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer Glen Kirkland for his significant contributions in making his community and society a better and safer place to live. Officer Kirkland has always been a beacon in the community with his ability to serve as a conscientious and honorable role model for many youth in the community.

Officer Kirkland was born on March 27, 1955 in Brooklyn, New York to Ruthel and David Fredrick and has five siblings, two sisters and three brothers. During his formative years, he attended Brooklyn public schools. Officer Kirkland began serving his community at an early age; during his teen years he was involved with the Faith, Hope and Charity Community Center. At this community center, Officer Kirkland was involved in projects that kept him off the streets and helped him secure summer employment.

Glen Kirkland became a New York City Police Officer in 1980. During his career as a police officer he has had various assignments dealing with the youth of the community. At the 75th Precinct, Officer Kirkland became the Youth Officer and Union Delegate for the Guardians organization. He has received numerous certificates, awards and plaques from the local community, state and federal entities for his efforts in working with youth.

Officer Kirkland is known not only as a trendsetter on his parole beat but also as a neighbor and family man. On more than one occasion, during the winter snows, he would shovel his sidewalk as well as his neighbors. He is a loving son, brother, devoted husband and father. He is the type of man you can call on at any hour of the day or night for assistance and he will be there.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Officer Glen Kirkland for his leadership specifically with youth and the many other contributions to his community. His endeavors and accomplishments deserve our praise and appreciation.

TRIBUTE TO GARRY BROWN

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 19, 2002*

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to bestow a special recognition to Garry Brown, chief Boston Red Sox writer and standout sportswriter for the past 52 years. Let me just say, there is no finer baseball writer in America. Gary Brown was recently awarded the top honors in sports

writing during the annual New England Associated Press News Executives Association award presentations which were held in Ogunquit, Maine.

In commenting on Brown's first place award, the judges noted that "his columns had good starts and even stronger endings. This is column writing the way it should be." Garry has successfully tackled various topics in his columns from the New York City terror attacks to racism. There is no doubt that he is a talented and gifted writer and the people of New England have enjoyed his writing over the last half century.

I am personally a fan of his columns and have read them for many years. So today, I wish to personally congratulate Garry Brown on his first place award and for his outstanding achievement in sports writing. Surely, he has created a dynamic legacy in New England.

LABOR VIOLATIONS UNDERMINE  
U.S.-ECUADOR TRADE RELATION-  
SHIP

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 19, 2002*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on October 29, the United States Trade Representative (USTR) recommended to the White House that Ecuador be designated a beneficiary country under the Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act (ATPDEA). The White House issued a proclamation adopting the recommendation on October 31, one day before trade ministers met for a summit in Quito, Ecuador.

The United States has once again chosen to extend special trading benefits to Ecuador despite blatant and rampant violations of worker rights in that country's banana industry.

Our Administration had a golden opportunity to promote democratic ideals abroad by placing universal labor rights above economic self-interest. It should have withheld trade benefits until Ecuador proved it was serious about eradicating child labor on its plantations, improving the hostile climate toward the right to organize, and bringing to justice those who attacked striking workers in February and May.

In February 2002, hoodlums attacked striking workers on a banana plantation in the middle of the night. Soon thereafter, Human Rights Watch released a damning report which documented a long litany of labor abuses on Ecuadorian banana plantations. As concerned members of the International Worker Rights Caucus, we sent down staffers to investigate the situation. They were given few helpful answers.

On September 23, we wrote to USTR Ambassador Zoellick and made the case that Ecuador did not deserve renewed trading benefits. Throughout the summer, the Ecuadorian government and much of the banana industry had continued to dismiss conclusions reached in the Human Rights Watch Report. It had become clear that the case of the attacked workers was nowhere near resolution. In short, the Ecuadorian government had shown little enthusiasm for instituting necessary labor reforms to keep trade beneficiary status.

USTR took our letter and its recommendations seriously by conferring renewed trading

benefits on Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia but withholding Ecuador's cause for further review. The recent decision to go ahead and renew Ecuador's status is dependent upon Ecuador fulfilling certain medium-term conditions at a later date.

We believe those conditions would be satisfied earlier if our country held Ecuador to the labor standards that U.S. trading agreements demand. The truth is that Ecuador sells more bananas to the U.S. than it does to any other country. It enjoys a beneficial trading arrangement that is contingent upon a respect for basic human rights. It should be held accountable.

We have included the September 23 letter we sent to the USTR. Under each of our recommendations, we have included an update of what the Ecuadorian government has done on this concern. We hope these measures will have been fully adopted by Ecuador when USTR revisits the issue in the future. Until then, we will continue to support rights for workers in Ecuador and elsewhere.

Robert B. Zoellick,  
Ambassador, United States Trade Representative, Washington, DC.

DEAR AMBASSADOR ZOELICK: As you know, in order for countries to be eligible under the Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act (ATPDEA), they must provide for internationally recognized worker rights. We are writing to express our concern that Ecuador has not met this criteria. We are particularly concerned about abuses in the banana sector.

Ecuador does not effectively enforce its laws governing the worst forms of child labor in its banana sector nor do the minimal penalties for violating those laws effectively deter employers from employing children in hazardous conditions. In Ecuador's banana sector, harmful child labor is widespread, children work long hours, are exposed to toxic pesticides, use sharp tools, haul heavy loads of bananas, lack sanitary water and access to restroom facilities, and, in a few cases, experience sexual harassment. Although the government of Ecuador and the Ecuadorian banana industry have recently pledged to take steps to address the problem, the promised steps are insufficient, as they fail to address adequately the problem of ineffective enforcement of child labor laws and inadequate sanctions for their violation.

Ecuadorian laws intended to protect freedom of association are seriously deficient. Employers who fire workers for organizing are not required to reinstate the workers and, if caught, usually pay only a minimal fine. Employers are not prohibited from interfering with unionization efforts or attempting to control workers' organizations. And legal loopholes allow employers to string together short-term contracts to create a vulnerable "permanent temporary" workforce. Subcontracted workers, also used widely in the sector, lack job stability and can only bargain collectively with their subcontractors, not with the companies that actually control their employment terms. These factors create a climate of fear among banana workers in Ecuador and have largely prevented them from organizing, resulting in a banana worker union affiliation rate of roughly 1 percent, far lower than that of Colombia or any Central American banana-exporting country.

Despite all the impediments to organizing, in February 2002, workers on the Los Alamos banana plantations, owned by the Noboa Corporation, began the first serious banana worker organizing drive in Ecuador in over five years. The Los Alamos workers, whose